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IRS SEIZES WRL'S BANK ACCOUNT

On April 18, the Internal Revenue Service took over WRL's bank account which totaled $2,537.43. The bank is a branch of First National City Bank. The sum seized represents most of the federal income tax owed by WRL employees for the years 1969, 1970 and 1971—plus interest. The League had honored the moral principles of its staff members who so request by **not** withholding federal taxes, over 60% of which go for weapons of war.

For more than six months IRS had been trying to collect the money which it claimed WRL owed. The League consistently had refused to pay the money voluntarily. Finally, IRS located and froze the bank account and then emptied it. Yet IRS records indicate that almost $1,000 additional is still "owed."

The WRL, which advocates tax resistance as one means of war protest, maintains the right of individuals to take this position, although it is legally bound to withhold taxes. American Friends Service Committee, took a position similar to that of the League and filed a lawsuit against IRS, on behalf of two of its employees. A federal judge in Philadelphia then ruled on constitutional grounds that the Friends were not required to withhold income taxes from the salaries of these two employees, who are opposed on religious grounds to paying war taxes. In an attempt to broaden this decision to include all tax resisters, whether religious or secular, WRL is discussing with attorneys the possibility of joining a class action suit against the government.

"We reject the role of collection agent for the federal government," commented WRL Chairperson Irma Zigas. "Nearly two-thirds of every income tax dollar is used for the military or for war materiel. We resent being forced to collect monies which will be used for purposes we abhor."

The seizure by IRS not only resulted in bounced checks but worse yet has resulted in less funds available for the continuing program of WRL. If you have not responded to the recent letter appealing for funds, please do so now. And to those who have already responded—THANKS.

MARCH FOR IMPEACHMENT

Photo by John Goodwin

This photo shows some of the 10,000 persons who converged on Washington April 27 for the March to Impeach Nixon. They are marching down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to the Capitol, where a rally was held. Similar demonstrations were conducted in Chicago and Los Angeles. *(On May 14, Irma Zigas personally delivered to the Rodino Committee the WRL impeachment petitions, containing over 20,000 signatures from 47 states.)*

WRL CONFERENCE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Enclosed with *WRL News* is a flyer giving fuller details, but please hold the dates of Friday evening, August 30, through Monday afternoon, September 2, so you can attend the National Conference, which is open to all members and friends of the League. The conference site is Geneva Point Center, on Lake Winnipesaukee, New Hampshire, a 236 acre conference center with more than a mile of shoreline. In addition to the necessary time spent on how to build a strong nonviolent movement, there is hiking in the woods, swimming, boating.

So. . . we'll look for you then. This is the first time in recent years that the National Conference has taken place on the East Coast and it means that many members who could not make it to California last year can be with us this year.

PORTUGAL–AND WRL

by Jim Peck

On a subfreezing, late January evening, 13 years ago, Igal Roodenko, I, and a few others picketed the Portuguese Consulate in New York to support a dramatic and unprecedented protest action against Dictator Salazar, then in the 33rd year of his record 40-year reign. The protest action, led by Humberto Delgado, was a week-long hijacking of the Portuguese luxury liner Santa Maria in the Caribbean. It was the first year of Portugal's marathon war to preserve its African colonies. Though Delgado and his small group of associates left the Santa Maria unharmed in Brazil, four years later, he was ambushed and killed by Portuguese secret police just across the border, in Spain.

This past October 5, Portugal's national holiday, a few WRLers (including myself) picketed the same Portuguese Consulate as well as the Consulate in San Francisco, urging an end to the African war, then in its 13th year. The demonstrations were small, but they were the only ones in recent times to be conducted by an American peace organization against that particular war.

So some of us in WRL, maybe most of us, vicariously join the jubilant Portuguese people in the streets celebrating their first freedom in 46 years. On April 26, 1974, Europe's oldest Fascist government, in power since 1928, was overthrown in a bloodless military coup. For 40 years, the dictator had been Antonio de Salazar. After his death in '68, he was succeeded by Marcello Caetano.

The junta which seized power, acting in the very opposite way to the oppressive and fascistic Chilean junta, immediately restored all freedoms, released political prisoners and took steps to establish constitutional government. Also it took a step which we can commend in averting a self-defeating counter-bloodbath by those in the crowds anxious to lynch the justifiably-hated members of the secret police

Though we cannot approve military coups in general, it would be stupid to not differentiate between the one in Portugal and the one in Chile, between Spinola and Pinochet. Spinola finally realized that colonialist wars in our times are nonproductive, just as DeGaulle realized it when he reversed himself on Algeria and later denounced the U.S. role in Vietnam.

What will happen in Portugal from here on out, it would be foolish to predict. But right now, we can celebrate the end of 46 years of Fascism there and justifiably hope for an early conclusion to Portugal's U.S.-financed war in Africa. We also hope that what has happened in Portugal will have influence on adjacent Fascist Spain.

ORGANIZING NOTES

by Ed Hedemann

The Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence and the Kansas City WRL have tied for this issue's "Unusual Action of the Month Award." An unnamed member of the Kansas City WRL "streaked" through the KC Impeachment Ball (which was put on as a fund raising event for the Leavenworth Brothers) wearing only a 3-foot paper mache head of Nixon.

On April 18 in Atlanta, Jerry Wingate was arrested for "creating a turmoil" in front of the Chilean foreign minister. On that day a ceremony was held to rededicate a central city park and change its name to "Park of the Americas." All the Latin American foreign ministers (who were attending the general assembly of the OAS being held in Atlanta) and city officials as well as 1000 Atlantans were there. When the Chilean minister was introduced, Jerry stepped forward and fell on his knees at the minister's feet praying in a loud voice for the restoration of human rights and liberties in Chile and an end to the assasinations, imprisonments, and tortures. Agents of the FBI and Atlanta police dragged him away as he continued to pray.

Other Demonstrations

Meanwhile on April 15, WRL local groups in Seattle, Isla Vista, Austin, San Francisco, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Albuquerque, and Kansas City protested the vast amount of taxes that are continuing to be spent on war and war preparation. The demonstrations were held in front of Federal Buildings, Post Offices, IRS offices, and Telephone Buildings. In Albuquerque, 1040 and Final Notice Before Seizure forms were burned in a wok.

During April, Austin, Albuquerque, Isla Vista, Twin Cities, and other WRL locals held demonstrations concerning the 300 Buddhist monks on a fast in Thieu's prisons. They are now off their fast on the promise of Thieu regime to release them.

Austin WRL joined other Austin left groups in "welcoming" Nelson Rockefeller and his Commission of Critical Choices with Attica posters at the LBJ Library in a demonstration of 300 strong.

On Good Friday, Hawaii WRL/Catholic Action people attempted to walk through the main entrance of Camp Smith (the Command Center in the Pacific for all U.S. Military forces) to the foot of the largest cross in Hawaii–on their parade field (guess the military feels the larger the cross the holier the cause). A religious service was intended, but stopped by riot-equipped Marines. However, no arrests were made, no blows struck, no barring letters issued, and the service was held where they were stopped.

Nonviolence Educational Events

Isla Vista held their week-long Festival of Nonviolence which featured such persons as Phil Berrigan and Ira Sandperl. The Festival was a major production involving films, workshops, music, poetry, work projects, art and photography exhibits.

The University of Minnesota WRL/FOR held a 5-day symposium titled "Songs of the Great Rising: A Vision of Post-Revolutionary Society." The topics covered environmental design, the Middle East, the American Indian tradition, gay liberation, and anarchism. They have designated May 22 as "peace day", which will feature a debate between Mulford Sibley and a brig. general of the Marine reserves on "Is War Ever Justified?" In addition there will be a picnic with the ROTC on their front lawn, a film on nonviolence, etc.

Kansas City WRL is co-hosting an amnesty conference May 14 and Iowa City WRL is hosting an organizing conference on nonviolence for the Plains States region from May 11-12.

WRL/West and WILPF coordinated a day long conference on disarmament in Oakland on April 20. Among other speakers, Congressperson Ron Dellums discussed his efforts in Congress to limit military spending.

Direct Action/Austin WRL with left groups in Austin held a political prisoners open forum March 23. Besides being a very productive discussion, this forum marked a significant unity among the numerous diverse left groups in Austin. A joint newsletter is being put out by these groups and in the future there will be other joint ventures–however maintaining the identity of the participant groups.

There have been some staff changes in the regional offices. After 4 years of WRL work in Albuquerque, Craig Simpson has left and is replaced by Laure van Heijenoort and Hank Skrypeck. Mandy Carter is due to leave the San Francisco office this summer to help organize Los Angeles. No replacement has yet been found for her.

WRL has recently made available two action outlines: one on the military-industrial complex (30¢) and another on counter-recruiting projects ($1.50). These outlines emphasize research and community action projects.

ANOTHER VIEW ON THE MIDDLE EAST

by Otto Nathan

(The League has received some letters critical of its Middle East statement. Otto Nathan, a friend and colleague of Albert Einstein, with a long and honored record as a peace activist and a former vicechairperson of the League, raises some pertinent objections. Two important notes should be made. Nobody has a guaranteed program for ensuring the survival and prosperity of Israel. The military approach clearly has not worked. We can no more ensure that termination of American arms sales to Israel would bring about peace and security, than Otto Nathan can ensure that continued arms sales would bring about such a result. Secondly, he probably is right in suggesting that the WRL statement is more demanding of Israel than of the Arabs and Palestinians. But it is important to remember the context. American public opinion is largely pro-Israel. Were I living in the Soviet Union, there is no doubt that I would be expressing my pacifist views in ways that would be considered more demanding of the Arab world.)
–Igal Roodenko, former WRL chairperson

I should like to make some remarks in regard to the WRL Statement on the Middle East. Since I appreciate the space limitations of the *WRL News* I shall emphasize primarily those points with which I disagree or which I feel need to be corrected. Let me make it clear that I am not "neutral." However, this does not prevent me from being most anxious to be objective. I am not neutral in so far as I desire Israel to survive and develop as a Jewish state. Both the history of the Jews and the political and social conditions of today's world make it, in my opinion, an indispensable prerequisite to the survival of the Jewish people that Israel be a Jewish state. I am as much opposed to nationalism as the WRL is, but I cannot ignore the political realities that surround us.

It is incorrect to claim in the Statement that "the organized forces of Zionism are the greatest barrier to open discussion (of the issue) within the United States". The same thought is also expressed in the March-April issue of *WRL News* in stating that one of the reasons for the decision to present the League's Peace Award to Dan Berrigan was "to confront the campaign to block an open discussion of Israeli policy.") There has been a great amount of very controversial discussion of the Middle East problem in a large number of publications; for instance, in the letter columns of *The New York Times.* What is even more important is the fact that there has been widespread, uninhibited discussion of the issue in Israel, before, during and after the October war. (I am not informed whether the same has been true in Arab countries.)

A serious shortcoming of the Statement is the almost total absence of information about Arab-Jewish history since 1947 which makes the Statement a poor guide for WRL members or other readers who are not sufficiently acquainted with the events of that period. There is nowhere any mention of the decision by the United Nations to partition Palestine between the Palestinians and the Jews. The phrase used by the Statement "regardless of how Israel came into existence," ignores the United Nations completely and encourages the reader to all kinds of speculation. It is equally incorrect to say that the Palestinians were "driven from their homes by the creation of Israel." The true historical facts are quite different and more complicated. It is similarly misleading to assert that the Palestinians have become "classic refugees, surviving decade after decade in sweltering camps." "Classic refugees" were almost always absorbed by other countries and were not sweltering in camps for many years. It is surprising that, talking of refugees, the Statement does not say one single word about the around 600,000 penniless Jewish refugees from Arab countries who were absorbed by Israel. The Statement considers it Israel's responsibility to compensate the refugees for what they left behind (their assets in bank accounts were long since transmitted to them) without raising a similar request for compensation to the Jews for all the property they were compelled to abandon in Arab lands.

Instead of at least mentioning that the United Nations had decided in 1947 on partition of Palestine and that history might have taken a completely different course had the Arabs–as the Jews–accepted the United Nations decision, the Statement almost condones the war started by the Arabs by saying that it was a reaction "to what they perceived, *not without considerable justification* (my italics), as an invasion of historically Arab territory." Invasion by the United Nations? Did it justify war against the Jews? Coming from WRL, this is as strange a statement as its assertion that the present status of Jerusalem is "inevitably provocative of violence." Should WRL find even the slightest excuse for war and violence? (It is, incidentally, also incorrect to make no distinction between the status of Jerusalem under Jordanian and under Israeli sovereignty.)

Another serious omission in the Statement is any reference to the aftermath of the 1948 war, as well as the later wars. Since the Arabs rejected any discussions with Israel during those 26 years, there has never been a real armistice, let alone a peace treaty (no doubt, a rare development in the painful, long history of wars). Although Israel made several attempts, there has never been a discussion, let alone negotiation, between Arabs and Israel about the refugees for which the Arab countries have shown no concern at all. To this day, the Arab countries participating in the October war have refused to have any direct communication with Israel (except for the final points in the separation arrangements between Egypt and Israel).

I cannot deal here in detail with the 10-point program proposed by the Statement. It strikes me that a very large burden in reaching a peaceful settlement would fall upon Israel and much less would be expected from her adversaries. Point 4 of the Statement, however, requires special comment. The Statement "absolutely opposes" any shipment of arms by the United States to the Middle East and any other country and suggests that the United States "appeal" to the Soviet Union and the rest of the world to discontinue shipment of arms to the Middle East. This is a one-sided stipulation which I reject. It reminds me of the farce during the Spanish Civil War of the Non-intervention Committee in London which the United States and Great Britain used as excuse for denying armed help to the Spanish Government while Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany supported the Franco rebels with heavy military supplies. Some experts in those days felt that this one-sided arrangement was an important, if not the main, cause of Fascist victory.

Similarly, point 7 of the Statement needs to be commented upon. It is correct that terrorism as such has a long history. But since the 6-Day War in 1967, terrorism has entered upon a new stage in its history. Palestinian groups were organized and publicly declared that their purpose was the destruction of Israel. One of the frequently announced means to that end was terrorism of all kinds, committed several times in foreign countries, far away from Israel herself. These terrorist groups were armed for their sinister activities by Arab governments. Pacifists no doubt reject Israel's retaliations as much as Palestinian terrorism. But to discuss the

(over)

ANOTHER VIEW ON THE MIDDLE EAST *(continued)*

"terrorism in which the Israelis, Arabs and Palestinians have engaged," as the Statement does, as if there were no distinction to be made between the actions of Palestinian groups and Israel is certainly not justified.

The most important request which we should make and which is not part of the 10 points of the Statement must refer to the indispensable necessity of *direct* negotiations between the Arab countries and Israel, not under the chairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union, but chaired by the United Nations (preferably not the Secretary General, but by a highly regarded official of the Secretariat; when at all possible, by a national of one of the smaller, less involved countries.) The various difficult and complicated issues that have to be settled if a peace agreement is to be achieved, can only be resolved if the parties themselves, in doubtless long drawn-out negotiations, attempt to find a solution. Moreover, only in a direct confrontation can the atmosphere of mutual confidence be created without which a lasting armistice, let alone durable peace, can be created.

I should certainly be in favor of voluntary disarmament of the nations in the Middle East which, in point 9 of the Statement, is considered the ultimate security for that region. However, I consider such a move on the part of those countries (as, incidentally, on the part of any other country) most unlikely in today's world. Disarmament of any region will only be achieved if universal and general disarmament becomes a reality, if the constant threat of war and annihilation of huge masses of people is removed from mankind. This is why I have repeatedly urged WRL to make universal disarmament one of the chief targets of its efforts. I do so again today. Without universal disarmament peace in the Middle East will remain as precarious as peace anywhere else in the world.

NONVIOLENT ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA

by Richard Post

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In late February of this year Richard Post attended a major conference on nonviolence in Latin America. He was one of four Americans present, and the official representative of the War Resisters League. His report has just become available and we present it with slight editing to fit the space. The religious emphasis of the conference is inevitable, given the culture of Latin America.)

A strong movement for liberation through nonviolent struggle may be developing in Latin America, if the problems of communication and training can be solved. A small but promising beginning was made at the conference on strategies February 23-28 in Medellin, Colombia.

The area seems "ripe for revolution". Poverty and misery are widespread. The groundswells of conscious discontent are steadily rising. Provocation is also increasing, as repression becomes ever more harsh. Economic underdevelopment presents some advantages for nonviolent liberation struggle, since it means smaller units of industry, larger proportions of the population living close to the soil. Poverty itself offers the advantages that it makes people communally minded, devoid of middle class ambitions.

Another advantage is the traditional Christianity of Latin America. To paraphrase the late Ernesto Che Guevarra, "Once Christians begin practicing their religion seriously and sincerely, the revolution in Latin America is won". The teachings and the life example of Jesus are well known, so that large masses of nonviolent activists struggling and suffering under the sign of the cross would have an extra dimension of strength–a double spiritual power–first the stimulus to the activists, then the moral deterrent to their opponents.

But the obstacles are also great: latent "machismo", marked class distinctions, ruthless exploitation. And there is little historical background for nonviolence. Hispanic culture lacks pacifist tradition, except for small sectors within the Church which rarely reach lay populations. The new Catholic left has not yet produced centers for aggressive, politically conscious and class conscious training in nonviolent action such as exist in Europe and North America. No peace church has found refuge in Latin America except for a few Mennonites–some 20,000 emigrants from Russia in remote parts of Paraguay, an equal number from Canada in Central America, about 2,000 in Uruguay and Argentina–there is a Mennonite seminary in Montevideo. They live quietly as humble country folk, partly assimilated foreigners. A few dozen American Quaker families have settled in rural Costa Rica. Followers of the Italian pacifist Lanza del Vasto founded a continuing organization in Buenos Aires some years ago, but it recently closed. Associations for the study of Gandhi's works have been active in Caracas, Panama and Santiago, where a statue of Gandhi was erected. But none of these can be looked to for help in the liberation movement. Organization and training must come from new sources. They cannot be expected to develop spontaneously or intuitively.

This was illustrated a few years ago in Colombia during a massive movement of spontaneous nonviolent action which was aborted on the threshold of victory, when trained leadership might have made a difference. The Government suddenly ceased construction of an important highway through a depressed rural area. The country folk had been looking forward to the highway in their desperate poverty for many reasons. As the news spread that the work had definitely ended, thousands started marching on the nearest office of the national highway department. By the second day about 20,000 had quietly gathered. The highway workers all departed, deserting their offices, tool shops, barns and garages. But there was no follow through. No pressure was exerted on the central government in Bogota. And nothing came of the demonstration. The country folk soon went home. A golden opportunity was lost, and no written account was made until one of the more active participants reported it in Medellin.

The conference was projected at a meeting for coordination and planning in Costa Rica in 1971. Both were organized by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The 50 delegates from 14 countries included 12 Catholic clergy–two of them bishops and a third an archbishop–and 6 Protestant clergy–one active bishop, another a retired bishop. Six of the fourteen women are nuns. Some ten percent of the delegates are engaged in social service for Indians. About one third are poor tenant farmers (share croppers) or urban industrial workers, all with some experience in nonviolent actions but none of them trained in theory. It was an inspiration to live with them for five days. The countries represented are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, U.S. and Europe. The Europeans who attended included Jean Fabre, IFOR central staff; Jean and Hildegard Goss-Mayr, formerly international traveling secretaries of the IFOR; Jean Van Lierde, vice chairman of the War Resisters' International; Jena-Marie Muller, Communaute Non-violence d'Orleans, France; and Devi Prasad, Chairman of the WRI, London. The four Americans are Rev. Ed Guinan, Pax Christi; Thomas E. Quigley, division for Latin America, United States Catholic Conference; Charles W.

Walker, Friends Peace Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and myself, representing WRL.

The first day was devoted to lectures on outstanding cases of nonviolent action, including those in the former Belgian Congo (1958-1961), Guatemala (May-October 1944), Culebra (an island near Puerto Rico), and some of the campaigns of Gandhi and his followers in India. The current activities of Dom Helder Camara in Brazil and Cesar Chavez in California were described, both of whom sent messages of support to the conference with expressions of regret that they were unable to attend.

Most of the time and effort of the conference was devoted to discussions in small groups of individual experiences in nonviolent actions, with extensive comments and suggestions for future application. Each delegate and attender chose one of four topics for group work—rural situations, urban industry situations, the Church as an instrument of liberation, or "conscientizacion", which became the principal watchword of the conference. Group reports were presented to plenary sessions for critical analysis and summary.

Since it would be difficult to organize and synthesize the reports of the four groups, some of the main points which might be useful are given at random, as they were reported to the plenary session:

- A successful revolution with firm takeover of political power by the people through nonviolence will require far higher levels, greater degrees and greater quantities of attributes than a revolution through violence.
- As soon as a few workers make contact with one another in a village, or factory, or plantation, or neighborhood, or university—a "community base"—they should organize, discipline themselves, train and continuously stimulate one another to develop ever greater conscientization.
- Base communities must practice pure democracy, in a sense anarchy, with no rank, privilege, or "boss"; no private property beyond those of bodily requirements; no authoritarianism. Self-discipline must stem from understanding, conviction, faith in the group, dedication, determination, etc. and not from authority or leadership. Leaders should not dictate.
- Education should be encouraged within the base in every way possible—wide reading, frequent meetings for discussion, and above all one action of nonviolent aggression after another in order to learn and to become disciplined through practical experience.
- Each base should help all the other bases near it in all their revolutionary struggles, as far as practicable.
- Theoretical education should be broad. Among the topics studied, particular stress should be given to identification of the "enemies", viz. colonialism, militarism, landlordism, capitalism, racism.
- The strategies for overcoming any enemy must always be consistent with the principles of nonviolence, of love and of overcoming enemies through love. The means must be identified with the end, as in the teachings of Jesus.
- All human societies and institutions must be viewed as continually changing or evolving, never static.
- The false concepts of fatalism and predestination must be avoided. Education as religion must be fully free.
- The nonviolent revolutionary movement must be world oriented, for a new society everywhere.
- Teams of nonviolent activists should include not only well educated theoreticians but also persons who live intimately with the suffering, exploited and oppressed people.
- The poor and oppressed know more about violence than the privileged, since violence is part of their lives. Non-violence obliges activists to be creative.
- Strategies which are effective in one country or area may be incorrect in another, even under circumstances which might appear similar. Each strategy should be devised and planned as an original plan, not a copy.
- Nonviolent action should be initiated from positions of strength, not of weakness.
- The roots of the nonviolent movement are intertwined with those or radical ecumenical Christianity, Gandhiism, Martin Luther Kingism, Cesar Chavezism, Daniel Dolciism, etc. It is essentially a spiritual movement. Its aim is human liberation in every sense.
- Manuals for specific actions should be studied as part of an activist's education, but they should never be followed literally, since each action is unique. Manuals are soon outdated.
- One topic above others weighed heavily on many delegates but was never discussed formally—the strategies which nonviolent revolutionaries should employ under conditions of terror such as those in Chile today. Or indeed under the conditions of the Allende administration prior to September 11. Many countries are now training their political police and special forces secretly, thoroughly and on a large scale, with abundant material resources of sophisticated equipment. The problem is of more than theoretical importance. And it is facing us in virtually every corner of the world right now.

At the final plenary an on-going entity was established. The Latin American delegates, acting as a general assembly, elected a central coordinator and a committee of four advisers. Resident correspondents were appointed for most of the 14 countries represented. A liaison representative was chosen for Europe and another for North America. The American representative is Rev. Ed Guinan, Pax Christi, 1335 N Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. He plans to hold a meeting in Washington in a few months for persons dedicated to nonviolence who might be interested in supporting the "Servicio".

The central coordinator, specifically not an "executive secretary", is to serve full time with salary for two years. He is Adolfo Perez (Esquivel), Boulevard Espana 890, San Isidro, Province of Buenos Aires. He plans to relinquish his university professorship and establish an office with paid secretary. He will convert his occasional newspaper *PAZ Y JUSTICIA* into a monthly service organ for the new entity, in addition to carrying news and commentary of the worldwide movement. If possible he will establish a second center for training in a northern country, preferably Costa Rica.

Seed contributions are needed immediately to "prime the pump". Funds will not be sought after this year in the United States or Europe, it is believed, since the on-going entity should be supported from Latin American sources. Checks may be made to the order of Adolfo Perez and sent to him directly.

The dedication and courage of the delegates to nonviolent struggle in areas where repression is harsh is in a sense a challenge to the liberation movement in the United States. The decline in our anti-war efforts, the relapse of so many former resistance activists into middle class complacency with life styles totally incompatible with liberation, presents a marked contrast against the dynamic spirit which the delegates reflected from the movement in Latin America. They reflected an anxiety and a searching for a better life, with greater political participation, which they said exists in a considerable proportion of their populations.

The differences between Latin Americans and ourselves in this respect may be explained in part, perhaps, by the greater degrees and extent of suffering in their countries. Another factor may be the higher degree of religiousity. For most of the delegates, nonviolence is an expression of their Christianity, of Jesus the Liberator, who calls us all to love our neighbors and enemies alike, making an absolute refusal to tolerate any form of injustice, as Jesus did.

WRL COUNTER-MILITARISM PROJECT?

by Ed Hedemann

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one of a number of articles to appear in WRL News *to help initiate discussion at the WRL National Conference, Labor Day weekend).*

For the first time in a decade War Resisters League (like most other U.S. peace groups) has found itself without a dominant issue or program to rally supporters around. The Indochina War has disappeared from the focal point of work and interest.

Since the League is not a "single war" type of organization, it plans to remain on the scene long after the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia have ended (hopefully). During this decade of anti-Vietnam war agitation the membership of the League grew from 3000 to 15,000. Will the people who have joined during this period feel the need to remain within the League? Has the underlying philosophy of the League convinced most of its members that we must "strive for the removal of the causes of war" rather than just oppose what "hot" wars the U.S. is currently involved?

None of the current programs of the League (e.g., Indochina, amnesty, and impeachment) focus directly on the causes of war. There has been some feeling within WRL that the League ought to focus on militarism, once again, since that issue is an attempt to get closer to the roots of war and in addition it can be a unifying focus for WRLers to rally around.

Taking a quick look at how militarism is present in our society reveals:

1) **military installations** and **military-related government agencies** (e.g., the Selective Service System, the Atomic Energy Commission, and NASA);
2) **recruiting**
   a) advertising (press, radio, TV, billboards and signs)
   b) the "downtown office"
   c) schools (J/ROTC, literature, counsellors, ads in school papers, and just plain recruiting);
3) **education**–textbooks and courses that display military solutions to social problems;
4) **military-industrial complex** and DoD **grants** to **academia**;
5) **taxes** and **legislation**;
6) **international issues** (e.g., SALT).

Already some national peace groups are working on various parts of the militarism issue, combating the above listed aspects of military presence in this society. For example, the Peacemakers have long been ardent advocates of nonregistration with the Selective Service System as well as other forms of draft resistance.

Counter-recruiting is a relatively new aspect of peace movement activity. It has been most prominent in counter–JROTC campaigns initiated by FOR, NIBSCO, CCCO, and the AFSC (in Baltimore and San Francisco). WRL/West has begun work with the AFSC in SF on the JROTC project. In addition, the WRL National Office has put out a packet (for $1.50) on counter-recruiting campaigns.

WILPF has had a long-standing program of getting peace literature into schools. Recently, the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence has developed a program of putting nonviolence literature into the Atlanta school system, and has already met with some successes.

Work against the military-industrial complex has been the mainstay of NARMIC, but recently the AFSC and CALC have come together on a "peace conversion" project aimed at the B-1 Bomber program of the military. The Movement for a New Society has joined in this project as have many other peace groups around the country. There have been other groups in the past who have campaigned against military corporations (e.g., the Honeywell project in Minneapolis).

Tax resistance has been around for a good number of years. In modern times, the Peacemakers were the first group to make a push in this direction, then WRL and other peace groups, and finally a separate organization, War Tax Resistance, was formed.

Anti-war legislative lobbying has been a prime function for about every national peace group with an office in Washington, D.C. Notably, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, SANE, and WILPF have done a lot of important work in this area. More recently, the Indochina Peace Campaign has been making a big push in this direction.

Disarmament has been a long-standing, but dormant (until recently), issue of the peace movement. Currently WSP is making an attempt to revive this vital concern. WILPF and WRL/West co-sponsored a disarmament week in April.

In my mind, the Atomic Energy Commission stands as a prime symbol of U.S. militarism. Few people realize that the largest program of the AEC is "weapons development and fabrication" which requires $1500 million per year to sustain. In contrast, reactor development, receives over $500 million, and physical research gets over $300 million per year.

In addition to the continued research, development, and stockpiling of nuclear weapons, campaigns against the AEC can be attacked on ecological grounds (e.g., nuclear accidents and breeder reactors) and monopolistic reasons (besides their monopoly on everything having to do with nuclear energy in this country, they have recently been accused of withholding evidence on solar energy possibilities).

The continued development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons also takes on an international dimension in raising the stakes of our bi-lateral suicide pact with the Soviet Union and by creating nuclear envy with other countries (notably, France).

A distinct advantage of a WRL AEC project is the strategic location of about 8 WRL locals near AEC installations. A campaign against the AEC could be carried out in a decentralized manner on many levels of activity. Centralization of the national campaign could occur by holding campaigns in various communities simultaneously.

For example, publicity could begin at the same time all over the country and likewise demonstrations of various sorts (picketing, civil disobedience, etc.) could begin during a particular week. The publicity in each area would make note of the fact that elsewhere in the nation similar agitation is occurring against the AEC. Demonstrations would not have to be massive, but could be very effective if they were coming at the AEC from all directions and were persistent.

Demands could include 1) an end to research, development, testing, and stockpiling of nuclear weapons; 2) dismantlement of presently stockpiled weapons; 3) moratorium on nuclear power plants; 4) deactivization of radioactive areas and opening them for public use; 5) end to secrecy; 6) adequate compensation for all those injured or damaged in AEC activities and mishaps.

This sort of campaign would have to be long term and should begin at least with a few goals which might be quickly realizable so as not to discourage participants.